

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert, before the first line on page 1, the sentence:

This Application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/491,124 filed January 26, 2000.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 4, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For that purpose, ~~the 1st invention~~ one aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 1)~~ is a data relay processing method wherein, in the case that at least one piece of information is sent from respective terminals, among a piece of information on schedule of usage of transmission band, another piece of information on schedule of transmission band which is able to be assigned, another piece of information on schedule of a term where an transmission band is able to be assigned or exchanged, and another piece information on a necessary cost when a transmission band is assigned or exchanged, the sent information is held, and

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 2nd invention~~ Another aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 2)~~ is a data relay processing method wherein, based on history information of the past processing record with respect to processes of assigning or exchanging of the transmission band between respective terminals and based on information with respect to said transmission band, said transmission band is reserved, assigned or exchanged or a communication price is determined.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 3rd invention~~ Still another aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 3)~~ is a data relay processing method ~~according to the 2nd invention~~, wherein

said history information is announced in said respective terminals, and intervals between the announcements are adjustable.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 4th invention~~ Yet another aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 4~~) is a data relay processing method ~~according to the 2nd invention~~, wherein said history information is renewed at predetermined time intervals or in accordance with whether said assigning or exchanging are possible or not.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 6, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 5th invention~~ Still yet another aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 5~~) is a data relay processing method wherein, in the case that there exists a transmission band utilized by reserving a transmission band, and a transmission band utilized without reserving a transmission band, information on usage frequency of the transmission band utilized by reserving said transmission band is defined by dependence information, and based on the dependence information and information with respect to said transmission band is reserved, assigned or exchanged or a communication price is determined.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 6, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 6th invention~~ A further aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 6~~) is a data relay processing method characterized in that, in the case that there exist a transmission band utilized by reserving the transmission band and a transmission band utilized without reserving the transmission band, information on usage frequency of said transmission band utilized by reserving the transmission band is defined as a dependence information, intervals of announcements of said

dependence information is controlled said transmission band is reserved assigned or exchanged or communication price is determined.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 7th invention~~ A still further aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 7~~) is a data relay processing method ~~according to the 5th or 6th inventions~~, wherein said dependence information is renewed at predetermined intervals.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 7, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 8th invention~~ A yet further aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 8~~) is a data relay processing method wherein in the case that there exist more than two transmission resources respective that make either one of the processes of reserving, assigning or exchanging transmission bands possible, by utilizing information on goodness of fit exhibiting a possibility of being selected at least for each of said transmission resources that is able to be processed and information on deadline time of said selection, said transformation resources are selected or a communication price is adjusted.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 7, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 9th invention~~ A still yet another aspect of the present invention (~~corresponding to claim 9~~) is a data relay processing method for controlling announcement intervals of route information for relaying data based on at least one piece of information among loads of terminals for carrying out data processing, a buffer capacity utilized for data processing, transmission quality, and available transmission band.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 7, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 10th invention~~An additional aspect of the present invention~~(corresponding to claim 10)~~ is a data relay processing method for controlling announcement intervals of at least one piece of information, based on at least one piece of information among loads of terminals for carrying out data processing, a buffer capacity utilized for data processing, transmission quality, and available transmission band, among said loads of terminals for carrying out data processing, said buffer capacity utilized for data processing, said transmission quality, and said available transmission band.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 8, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 11th invention~~A still additional aspect of the present invention~~(corresponding to claim 11)~~ is a data relay processing unit comprising: a transmission band management means wherein in the case that at least any one piece of information is sent from respective terminals, among a piece of information on schedule of usage of transmission band, another piece of information on schedule of transmission band which is able to be assigned, another piece of information on schedule of a term where an information band is able to be assigned or exchanged, and another piece information on a necessary cost when a transmission band is assigned or exchanged, said transmission band management means holding and managing the sent information; and

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 12th invention~~A yet additional aspect of the present invention~~(corresponding to claim 19)~~ is a data relay unit comprising: packet classification rules for classifying packets, a packet classification means for classifying packets based on said packet classification rules, band reservation rules for managing rules

for reserving transmission bands, and a band reservation means for reserving transmission bands based on said band reservation rules and the results of packet classification.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 13th invention~~ A still yet additional aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 22)~~ is a data relay unit according to the 12th invention comprising priority addition rules for managing rules for adding priority information, priority adding means for adding priority, priority processing rules for managing rules of the processing method of priority and a priority processing means for carrying out priority processing based on added priority.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~On the other hand, it is the purpose of the present invention listed as 14th to 19th that, considering problem (3) of a conventional traffic amount control system as described above, an information drop method and an information drop unit affluent in flexibility and variety are provided.~~

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 10, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 14th invention~~ A supplementary aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 24)~~ is an information drop method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 10, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 15th invention~~ A still supplementary aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 25)~~ is an information drop unit comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 11, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 16th invention~~ A yet supplementary aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 26)~~ is an information drop method comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 11, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 17th invention~~ A still yet supplementary aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 27)~~ is an information drop unit comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 12, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 18th invention~~ Another aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 30)~~ is an information drop method characterized by comprising:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 13, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~The 19th invention~~ Still another aspect of the present invention ~~(corresponding to claim 32)~~ is an information drop unit characterized by comprising: